

Public Notice. This public notice appeared in three daily newspapers on July 5, 2015, including the Billings Gazette, Missoulian and Great Falls Tribune.

The Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) is providing public notice of its intent to: (1) submit to the Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), on or before September 15, 2015, written applications for an 1115 Waiver and 1915(b)(4) Fee-for-Service (FFS) Selective Contracting Program Waiver to implement the Health and Economic Livelihood Partnership Program (HELP Program); and, (2) hold public hearings to receive comments on these waiver applications.

On April 29, 2015, Governor Steve Bullock signed into law Senate Bill 405, an Act establishing the Montana HELP Program to expand health coverage in Montana to an estimated 70,000 new adults with incomes up to 138 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). The proposed 1115 Demonstration and 1915(b) Selective Contracting Waivers support implementation of the HELP Act by enabling Montana to implement two central features of its HELP Program: (1) use of a TPA/ASO arrangement to provide efficient and cost-effective coverage; and (2) consumer cost-sharing to encourage personal responsibility and cost-conscious behaviors.

Montana will contract with a Third Party Administrator/Administrative Services Organization (TPA/ASO) to administer the delivery of and payment for healthcare services for most new adults, with the exception of individuals who are exempt from TPA/ASO enrollment, such as medically frail and American Indian/Alaskan Native residents.

Montana will also require premiums and cost sharing for new adults with incomes below 138 percent of the FPL who are enrolled through the TPA/ASO. These individuals will be required to pay premiums equal to 2 percent of monthly income and maximum co-payment amounts allowed under federal law. In accordance with federal law, premiums and copayments combined may not exceed 5 percent of family income. Any individual who fails to pay required premiums will incur a debt to the state. Additionally, individuals with incomes above 100% FPL who fail to pay premiums will be dis-enrolled from coverage until they pay overdue premiums or until the Department of Revenue assess the premium debt against their income taxes. Individuals who engage in approved healthy behaviors will be exempt from such disenrollment.

The State will request the following waivers in the 1115 Demonstration Waiver:

- § 1902(a)(17): To waive Medicaid comparability requirements allowing different treatment of newly eligible adults, such as the application of co-payments and premiums on newly eligible adults enrolled in Medicaid through the TPA/ASO;
- § 1902(a)(14): To impose monthly premiums that are equal to 2 percent of income on newly eligible adults enrolled through the TPA;
- § 1902(a)(23): To waive Medicaid freedom of choice requirements relative to the TPA; and
- § 1902(a)(8): To waive the reasonable promptness requirement and permit disenrollment of people incomes above 100% of the federal poverty level who fail to pay required premiums.

Montana intends to submit a 1915(b)(4) FFS Selective Contracting Program Waiver to allow the State to selectively contract the TPA/ASO provider network to serve HELP Program participants.

The Demonstration will further the objectives of Title XIX by expanding Medicaid coverage —increasing the number of Medicaid enrolled individuals in the State by more than half—and ensuring quality, affordable access to coverage for low-income Montana residents. The Demonstration will also promote continuity of and access to providers by leveraging the efficiencies and expertise of the private market.

The Demonstration will be statewide and will operate during calendar years 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019. The State anticipates that approximately 45,000-70,000 individuals will be eligible for the Demonstration.

The Demonstration will test hypotheses related to provider access, use of high value health care, and consumer engagement in healthy behavior.

Two public meetings will be held regarding the waiver:

1) Webinar hosted on August 18, 2015, 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., in the Billings Public Library, 510 North 28th Street, Billings, MT 59101; and

2) Webinar hosted on August 20, 2015, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., in the Sanders Building Auditorium, 111 North Sanders Street, Helena, MT 59601.

To join one or both of the presentations, complete the required registration application at <http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/medicaidexpansion>. If special accommodations are needed, contact 406-444-4455.

Public comments may be submitted until midnight on September 7, 2015. Comments may be submitted by e-mail to jothompson@mt.gov or by regular mail to: The Department of Public Health and Human Services, Attn: Jo Thompson, PO Box 202951, Helena, MT 59620-2951.

The complete version of the current draft of the Demonstration application will be available for public review beginning on July 7, 2015 at <http://dphhs.mt.gov/medicaidexpansion>.